

WRAAF ASSOCIATION QLD INC



C-17 over Brisbane during
Riverfire Rehearsals 2023

Newsletter Issue No. 3

www.airforce-women-qld.org.au

Spring Edition September

From the President's Desk

Firstly I must apologise for holding up production of this Newsletter. Sorry Janet. I had good intentions to be on time but I have been a 'little' distracted lately.

The source of this distraction started with the birth of my granddaughter, Mia-Callie on the 24th of July. I could just sit and look at her for hours on end. I'm sure a lot of you understand where I am coming from as every grandparent I have spoken to say the same thing.

What a wonderful WRAAF reunion we had this year. Once again the Toowoomba ladies did an incredible job of organising and hosting the event. As always! It was lovely to have a couple of people travel from interstate for it.

My snorkel trip to the Conflict Islands was all that I could hope for and I spent lots of hours in the water photographing the colourful fish and coral.



In August my husband, Kim, and I went to Tin Can Bay for a week and what a lovely relaxing time that was.

It is a very picturesque and quiet little community with lots of walking tracks along the bay. The trees were full of birds. I also got up close and personal with some dolphins.

Stay well and joyful.

Per Adua Ad Astra

Peggy Broomhall

Marburg's Tourist Attraction

A couple of months ago I had the pleasure of joining the Logan/Beenleigh Retired Police Association on a bus trip to the interesting town of Marburg. Like all tourists I couldn't go past Marburg's Street Library Reading Room. I just loved it, so, I naturally took a photo and googled it when I got home.

So, where did it come from?

A sprawling street library and somewhat unusual reading room have popped up out the front of the green shed in the centre of town.

A tin outhouse has been built to serve as reading room and is already proving popular with the locals.

It should be noted however, that it is not a functioning toilet.

When the Children's Book Council of Australia (Qld branch) called for expressions of interest for one lucky member across the state to be the recipient of a street library donated by Street Library Australia, Ipswich Libraries was quick to jump to action.

The Marburg Residents Association jumped on board after the street library was received and decided to make two more to compliment the first.

Councillor Russell Milligan said that this initiative was a great way to bring books to rural areas as



Ipswich's population booms.

"The Marburg Residents Association have shown real enthusiasm for having this street library in their community," Cr Milligan said.

"Not only did they embrace the idea but they built on it to put their own unique country stamp on it by adding additional libraries and reading room."

(Marburg resident Barry Gratton with the street library)



Councillor Kate Kunzelmann said it was a wonderful innovation to be able to use the service provided by the community for the community. One box is dedicated to children's books, a second for non-fiction and a third for fiction titles.

Toilets have often been called 'reading rooms' and the Marburg community has a great sense of humour.

Continued

“I congratulate the local residents and artists who have spent a lot of voluntary time to put this street library together,” Cr Kunzelmann said. “This is a grass roots initiative free from bureaucracy and for people who love books it’s a great way to be able to access them.

“The street library has been placed in the centre of town in the park where families and groups regularly gather under historic tall trees.

Marburg Residents Association secretary Wendy Gratton said the idea for the interesting reading room came from her husband Barry. He thought it would be a bit of fun to make a reading room alongside the street library to encourage people to stop by and have a read,” Mrs Gratton said.

“The idea of the dunny was because in the olden days, you might take your newspaper or something to read and be there for a while. “Our son Rob made it from scratch according to Barry’s design and the corrugated iron was donated from Les Birnie’s Scotland Yard Antiques shop.

“We also had another resident lay pavers and two local artists, Michelle Howarth and Tanya Weier did the artwork.” Mrs Gratton said it’s already becoming a bit of a tourist destination with people stopping to be photographed reading in the outhouse reading room and posting to social media.

“It’s a bit quirky and different from a traditional library and reading room,” Mrs Gratton said.

Reference: <https://www.ipswichfirst.com.au/ipswichs-newest-street-library-has-unusual-reading-room>



THE WRAAC ASSOCIATION LIBRARY



The WRAAC Association has a lending library and wish to extend an invitation to our members to use this facility.

To view available publications in their library [CLICK HERE](#)

Postal recipients—a list of publications are enclosed.

Process for borrowing:

Contact Daniela Bensen on 3869 3190 or

Email: bensen21@hotmail.com

If you are local, contact Daniela who will pass on your selection via the WRAAC President to me (Janet). Your selection will be available at the next GM and to be returned to me at the following GM.

If you are non-local Daniela will try and make an arrangement to save a postage fee.

*This library is available to other 'Sister Services' and all are invited to access the collection.
Borrowing time will not extend past 3 months.*

CITATION**W6257 Leading Aircraftwoman Kathleen Winifred Pearson**

On 14 June 1954, an airwoman was standing before an open fire in the Women's Royal Australian Air Force Recreation Room at No 1 Stores Depot, Tottenham, Victoria, when her clothing caught fire. As she ran towards the door, Leading Aircraftwoman Pearson, the only other occupant of the room at that time, caught her and attempted to smother the flames. The victim, panic-stricken, broke free, but LACW Pearson caught her and, after a brief struggle, forced her to the floor and rolled her in a carpet. Having smothered the flames, she then ran for assistance. During her courageous efforts to extinguish the flames, LACW Pearson herself suffered second degree burns and ran great risk of igniting her own clothing. There is no doubt that the presence of mind and prompt and gallant action of the Leading Aircraftwoman were responsible for saving the life of her companion who is now slowly recovering from serious and extensive burns.

B.E.M. Award to Aircraftwoman

CANBERRA. January 25. The first decoration to be awarded a post-war member of the Women's Royal Australian Air Force was announced today.

The award of the British Empire Medal has been made to LACW Kathleen Winifred Pearson, of New town, Tasmania, at present stationed at No. 3 aircraft depot, Amberley, Queensland.

The Acting Minister for Air (Mr H. E. Holt), who announced the award, said that her action in rescuing another woman from serious injury or possible death. LACW Pearson, in her rescue effort, suffered serious burns herself, he added.

Source: trove.nia.gov.au/newspaper/article/62537602



Somewhere in the above photo is Kathleen Winifred Pearson.

WTC 003 30 January 1951 to 26 February 1951



Reserve Forces Day Recognition Ceremony

Each year our Association Newsletter advertises the Wondai Reserve Forces Day Recognition Ceremony. And each year I plan to attend this event. Unfortunately, July is a very busy month for memorial events as well as our own Management and General meetings, as a result, once again, this event has been moved to “My To Do List”, 2024.

This year, having once again failed to attend this event, I decided, the least I could do to support this ‘Recognition Day’ is to include this year’s speech by Federal Member for Flynn, Mr Colin Boyce MP, to encourage both you and I to make the 2024’s event.

Wondai Reserve Forces Day Recognition Ceremony

2 July 2023

Federal Member for Flynn, Mr Colin Boyce MP; South Burnett Regional Council, Mayor, Councillor Brett Otto and Councillors; Commander Ronald Forbes RAN (Ret’d); our MC today, Captain Walter Knight (Retd); Padre, Mr John Cheyne; representatives of the Australian Defence Forces; members of the Reserve Forces Day Committee and Wondai RSL Sub-Branch; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

I begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the lands of the South Burnett region, the Wakka Wakka and Wulli Wulli people¹, and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and to all First Nations people here today.

I made my first visit to the South Burnett region only last month for Nanango’s Pioneer Festival, and I’m very pleased to have the opportunity to return today, to be part of Wondai’s annual celebration of Reserve Forces Day.

There have been Reservists in Australia since Federation, and ever since, have played a vital role in the defence of Australia and in supporting peacekeeping, humanitarian and disaster-relief operations both around the world and here at home.

The wreath-laying and Parade this morning, together with this Recognition Ceremony, all acknowledge the service and sacrifice of the millions of men and women who have served in the Army, Airforce and Navy reserves for over 120 years.

These ceremonies also celebrate this community’s proud historic ties to World War II when twenty thousand troops were based here. It is now 25 years since the first Reserve Forces Day parades were held in Australia as a way of raising awareness of the Reserves, encouraging enlistment, and thanking employers for their support.

Here in Wondai, the Parade and other ceremonies have been proudly maintained by the South Burnett Reserve Forces Day Committee for the past 18 years and I thank them for their dedication to ensuring that they continue.

As the Patron of QCWA Queensland, I also congratulate the members of the QCWA Wondai Branch. By providing refreshments through their coffee stall today, they are commemorating one of the great community responses to the wars of the 20th century – the Australian Comforts Fund.



Continued

The Fund enabled 12 million mugs of tea to be supplied to soldiers in the trenches in World War I, and CWA members here in Wondai were among the thousands of mothers, sisters, wives and daughters who sewed and knitted countless garments to be shipped to European battlefields in World War II to keep Australian soldiers safe and warm.

Today's celebration is a great community legacy and I thank you all for your commitment to keeping these important traditions alive.

Reference: govhouse.qld.gov.au/the-governor-of-queensland/speeches/wondai-reserve-forces-day-recognition-ceremony

GALLERY: Gathering to remember at Reserve Forces Day



Historical Photos: Federal, State and local members were all present at the Wondai Reserve Forces Day



Historical photo:

Governor-General Janette Young laying a wreath

Wondai War Memorial



Reference: <https://burnetttoday.com.au/news/2023/07/04/gallery-gathering-to-remember-at-reserve-forces-day/>

**A Celebration of the Life of
Dulcie Vera Noonan**

2nd February 1931 – 28th June 2023



Wednesday 5th July 2023
11:00am
Graveside Service Kilcoy Cemetery
Celebrant Phillip Novella



A SILENT TEAR

Just close your eyes and you will see

All the memories that you have of me

Just sit and relax and you will find

I'm really still there inside your mind

Don't cry for me now I'm gone

For I am in the land of song

There is no pain, there is no fear

So dry away that silent tear

Don't think of me in the dark and cold

For here I am, no longer old

I'm in that place that's filled with love

Known to you all, as "up above".



Order of Service

Opening Song

"How Great Thou Art" ~Carrie Underwood

Welcoming Words

~Phillip Novella

Eulogy and Tributes

Poem

"The Last Journey"
~ Rhonda Kunde

WRAAF Poppy Service

Committal

~ Phillip Novella

Lowering of Coffin

"My Way" ~ Elvis Presley

Farewell

~ Phillip Novella

Final Song

'I'll be Seeing You' ~Billy Holiday



Together Again

Dulcie's family would like to extend their sincere thanks to everyone for attending today's service. Your presence, telephone calls, cards, friendship and kindness are most appreciated. Please except our invitation to join us for refreshments at the Kilcoy Bowls Club.

Kilcoy Funeral Directors ~ 07 5497 1196
www.kilcoyfuneraldirectors.com

Rest in Peace

There is a train at the station
With a seat reserved just for me
I'm excited about its destination
As I've heard it sets you free

The trials and tribulations
The pain and stress we breathe
Don't exist where I am going
Only happiness I believe

I hope that you will be there
To wish me on my way
It's not a journey you can join in
It's not your time today

There'll be many destinations
Some are happy, some are sad
Each one a brief reminder
Of the great times that we've had

Many friends I know are waiting
Who took an earlier train
To greet and reassure me
That nothing has really changed

We'll take the time together
To catch up on the past
To build a new beginning
One that will always last

One day you'll take your journey
On the train just like me
And I promise that I'll be there
At the station and you will see

That life is just a journey
Enriched by those you meet
No-one can take that from you
It's always yours to keep

But now as no seat is vacant
You will have to muddle through
Make sure you fulfil your ambitions
As you know I'll be watching you

And if there's an occasion
To mention who you knew
Speak kindly of that person
As one day it will be you

Now I can't except this ending
And as it's time for me to leave
Please make haste to the reception
To enjoy my drinks, they're free!

Timothy Coote

QUEENSLANDERS JOIN THE WRAAF



Shirley Thompson, Wyn Smith, Chris Simmonds, Joyce Todd, Joan Brandon, June Harrison, Dulcie Kunde (Noonan).



The pic below was taken as this bunch of girls were boarding the train from South Brisbane station, heading off for a life in the WRAAF.



Vietnam Veterans' Day (18 August) recognises the invaluable contribution of Australians who served in the Vietnam War.

Australia's involvement in the war formally ended in 1973, making this – **the 50th anniversary** – a particularly important year to commemorate.



WRAAF Members Vi Speis and Pamela Hardy-Treloar
with WRAAC member Chris Clancy

Some of us attended the Victory in Pacific Ceremony at the Limbless Soldiers / New Farm RSL and Pamela Hardy Treloar laid a wreath on the WRAAF Association's behalf. The flyover by the Globemaster was something special.

WRAAF Toowoomba Reunion, 8 July 2023

Our motto or saying, "WRAAF Friends Forever", espouses the friendship six WRAAF ladies have shared over many decades as well as the tyranny of distance.

Rosa Wallis flew over from WA to catch up with Cath Griffiths and Daphne Hopping while Marjorie travelled from Victoria to stay with her dear friend Anne Quinell. They shared several days of outings and 'catching up' with their 'forever friends'.

Cath Griffiths, Anne Quinell, Daphne Hopping, Peggy Broomhall, Rosa Wallis and Marjorie Dixon



The Maryborough Military Aviation Museum Association is pursuing its mission to preserve the rich aviation heritage of the region by building a world-class museum complex at Maryborough Airport.



As part of its fundraising efforts, a social event was held on Saturday 9 September, with special guest speaker RAAF representative Air Vice-Marshal David Dunlop (rtd) sharing stories from Maryborough's aviation history.

Everyone was welcome at the special walk back in history, set against the backdrop of Gatakers Creative Space, at 311 Kent Street Maryborough.

Earlier on the same day, Saturday 9 September, starting at 2:30pm, a special unveiling ceremony was held at the Maryborough War Memorial and Cenotaph as a tribute to those who have served their country.

Supported by the DVA Saluting Their Service Grant Program, two bronze plaques had been installed at the War Memorial and Cenotaph. One of the plaques will pay homage to the RAAF Station that operated from the Maryborough Airport during the pivotal period of World War II. This tribute extends to all the individuals who donned the RAAF uniform, especially commemorating the 3,143 members who tragically lost their lives in service during the RAAF's first century, and whose final resting places remain unknown.

The second plaque serves as a reminder of the invaluable contributions made by Australian women in RAAF and RAN Medical Services. Their service during World War II, Korea, Malaya, and Vietnam will be celebrated, alongside a broader recognition of medical personnel from the Australian Army, Air Force, and Navy who selflessly served in various theatres of war.

Following the unveiling ceremony, a complimentary guided tour of the Gallipoli to Armistice Memorial provided a deeper understanding of the sacrifices made by those who served.

Building a museum

The Maryborough Military Aviation Museum Association Inc is a not-for-profit community organisation formed to develop a military aviation museum complex at the Maryborough Airport.

The museum collection is continually growing, and has over 300 items including a Wackett and Tiger Moth aircraft that are being restored to serve as static displays.

Now at the construction stage, the museum will commemorate the considerable RAAF service in Maryborough during World War II, in particular No. 3 WAGS.

The Association has an ongoing campaign to raise funds for the complex and enquiries can be directed to mmamsecretary@gmail.com.

Caption: Museum volunteers and aviation enthusiasts at work.



Calendar - 2023

Venue: Salvation Army Church—167 Ann Street, Brisbane



DATE	
OCTOBER	
Wednesday 11th	<p>Glasshouse Mountains Ex-Servicewomen's Luncheon Informal Luncheon—at the LOCAL at 18/44 Simpson Street, Beerwah 11.00am to 1.30pm Contact Fran Sinclair, 0416 013 987</p>
Saturday 14th	<p>RSL Community Family Day Western Districts Rugby Football Club, Memorial Park 65 Sylvan Road, Toowong 10.00am to 4.00pm Free Show Rides, Food Trucks/On site Café Military Equipment Displays, Army Band Performances, ADF Cadets, RSL Sub-Branch Displays, Animal Nursery</p>
Oct/Nov	<p>United with WRAAC for Bus Trip to Australia Zoo <i>Still awaiting confirmation date. You will be advised</i></p>
Friday 20th	<p>Hervey Bay Ex-Servicewomen's Social Club 39th Birthday Weekend (Flyer sent)</p>
Saturday 21st	<p>RSVP to Julie Chapple, Treasurer by 6th October—0407 766 545</p>
Sunday 22nd	
Monday 23rd	<p>Combined Services Bribie Island Group—Luncheon Bribie Island RSL, 99 Toorbul Street, Bongaree, 11.30am Contact Anita Cooper 0402 246 408</p>
NOVEMBER	
Wednesday 8th	<p>Glasshouse Mountains Ex-Servicewomen's Luncheon 1100am to 1.30pm at the LOCAL Beerwah 18/44 Simpson Street, Beerwah—Contact Fran Sinclair, 0416 013 987</p>
Saturday 11th	<p>OGM 9.30am for 10.00am start—Salvation Army Church, 167 Ann St., Brisbane City—followed by Christmas High Tea Members who wish to attend our Christmas High Afternoon, and have not paid, would you please remit \$10.00 to the following account: Bendigo Community Bank BSB: 633 000 Acct Nr: 203 331 269 Payable by 27th October 2023. Please advise Assistant Treasurer Jill Buckland by email jillbuckland@bigpond.com or phone her on 0400 928 136</p>
Monday 27th	<p>Combined Services Bribie Island Group—Luncheon Bribie Island RSL, 99 Toorbul Street, Bongaree, 11.30am Contact Anita Cooper 0402 246 408</p>

YOUR 2023—2024 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Your Management Committee is committed to making decisions from an informed and inclusive environment by meeting prior to each OGM.

Executive

President: Peggy Broomhall. Phone - 0431 945 769 Email - pkbroomhall@bigpond.com

Vice President & Secretary: Janet Noack. Phone - 0419 659 902 Email - secretary.wraaf@gmail.com

Treasurer: Colette Whiteley Phone 0431 378 078 , Email treasurerwraaf@gmail.com

Asst Secretary: Maureen Stewart 0424 741 527 Email - morsy@optusnet.com.au

Asst Treasurer: Jill Buckland, 0400 928 136 Email - jillbuckland@bigpond.com

Committee Members

Chris Lloyd; Leigh Walsh; Pam Hardy-Treloar; Susita Coleclough; Vi Speis; Dorelle Mumford; Judy Evans

Well-Being Support Officer: Maureen Stewart. Contact details: Ph.3389 5762 Mob.0424 741 527

or Email: morsy@optusnet.com.au

Newsletter Editor : Janet Noack (details as above)

Merchandise Officer: Jill Buckland. Contact details: Phone 0400 928 136 - Email—jillbuckland@bigpond.com

Website Address

www.airforce-women-qld.org.au

WHERE & WHEN WE MEET:

Salvation Army Church Meeting Room at 167 Ann Street, Brisbane City.

Please arrive By 9.30am for a 10.00am start.

When:

3rd Saturday in January OGM, + Birthday Celebration and July OGM.

2nd Saturday in March OGM + AGM; May OGM and September OGM; November OGM + Christmas Faire

Newsletter:

Each quarter commencing in late March.

BANKING DETAILS

Name of the Account: WRAAF Assn Qld

Institution: Bendigo Community Bank

BSB: 633000

Account Number: 203331269

Cheque made payable to: WRAAF Assn Qld

Forward to: Treasurer,

WRAAF Assn Qld

17 Dorsey Crescent

Bundamba Qld 4304

